



MULCHING

DEFINITION & PURPOSE

A layer of organic material designed to protect exposed soil or freshly seeded areas from erosion by eliminating direct impact of precipitation and slowing overland flows. Mulch materials include grass, hay, straw, wood chips, wood fibers, and shredded bark.

CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE USE

Mulching can be used in areas of sheet flow for temporary soil stabilization on disturbed areas and applied to seeded areas to protect the seed and retain moisture for plant establishment. It is essential to seeding success in most conditions. In landscape areas, mulch is installed for permanent use. Where slopes are 3:1 or greater, hydraulic mulch-bonded fiber matrix, erosion control blankets, or turf reinforcement mats should be used. See [MDNR Guide Section 6-91](#) for additional guidance.

INSTALLATION/CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES

Install immediately after grading landscaped areas or after seeding in other areas. Grade area and remove all debris larger than 1 inch if area is to be vegetated and mowed in the future, larger than 2 inches if area is to be permanently mulched. If area is to be seeded, follow requirements of seeding. Spread mulch evenly and anchor by crimping it into the ground or using netting.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Inspect every week and within 48 hours after every rain event that causes stormwater runoff to occur on-site until adequate vegetation is established. For permanent mulch, inspect annually. Protect from vehicular and foot traffic. Repair damaged or eroded areas, and reseed and replace mulch as needed.

SITE CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL

Mulching is biodegradable and will remain in place.